

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for storing multiple tracks of media data in a structured secured file comprising:
  - a) storing in the file a file header containing meta-data concerning the file;
  - b) creating at least two track folders in the file, with one track folder for each track stored in the file, each track folder containing
    - i) a track header containing meta-data concerning the track; and
    - ii) the media data defining the track stored in an encrypted format.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the media data is chosen from at least one of the following types: music data, non-musical audio data, textual data, video data, graphical data, and audio-visual data.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - c) encrypting the file header using a first encryption key; and
  - d) encrypting the media data with a second encryption key.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
  - e) encrypting the track header using the first encryption key.
5. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
  - e) storing the first encryption key in every software package capable of playing the structured secured file; and
  - f) storing the second encryption key in a product license that is distributed to a possessor of the structured secured file only after the possessor has requested the product license to the structured secured file.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the product license is not distributed until the possessor of the structured secured file has paid a license fee for the product license.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:
  - g) storing unencrypted media data in the file; and
  - h) allowing access to the unencrypted media data when the possessor of the file does not have the product license.
8. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
  - e) storing in the file unencrypted file-related audio-visual material relating to the media data, and
  - f) storing a first checksum value relating to the file-related audio-visual material in the encrypted file header, the first checksum value serving to verify that the file-related audio-visual material has not been altered since the file was created.
9. The method of claim 8, further comprising:
  - g) storing unencrypted track-related audio-visual material relating to a specific media track in the track folder containing the specific media track;
  - h) storing a second checksum value relating to the track-related audio-visual material in the track folder containing the specific media track; and
  - i) encrypting the track header using the first encryption key.
10. A multi-track media file comprising:
  - a) a file header containing information relevant to the entire media file;
  - b) at least two tracks of media data; and
  - c) one track header for each track, each track header containing information relevant only to one track.
11. The multi-track media file of claim 10, wherein the media data is chosen from at least one of the following types: music data, non-musical audio data, textual data, video data, graphical data, and audio-visual data.

12. The multi-track media file of claim 10, wherein the file header is encrypted with a first encryption key and the tracks of media data are encrypted with a second encryption key.
13. The multi-track media file of claim 12, wherein the track headers are encrypted with the first encryption key.
14. The multi-track media file of claim 12, further comprising:
  - d) audio-visual material relevant to the complete media file; and
  - e) A checksum value verifying the integrity of the audio-visual material, the checksum value being located within the encrypted file header.
15. The multi-track media file of claim 10, further comprising:
  - d) one track folder for each track, with each track folder containing exactly one track of media data and the associated track header.
16. The multi-track media file of claim 15, wherein the file header is encrypted with a first encryption key and the tracks of media data are encrypted with a second encryption key.
17. The multi-track media file of claim 16, wherein the track headers are encrypted with the first encryption key.
18. The multi-track media file of claim 17, further comprising:
  - e) audio-visual material relevant to a particular track stored unencrypted in the track folder that contains the particular track; and
  - f) a checksum value verifying the integrity of the audio-visual material, the checksum value being located within the encrypted track header associated with the particular track.
19. The multi-track media file of claim 18, further comprising:
  - g) file liner notes applicable to the complete media file; and
  - h) track liner notes applicable to a selected track stored unencrypted in the track folder containing the selected track.

20. The multi-track media file of claim 19, wherein the file liner notes have an associated checksum stored in the file header and the track liner notes also have an associated checksum stored in the track folder associated with the selected track.
21. A multi-track music file comprising:
  - a) a file header encrypted using a first encryption key, the encrypted file header containing
    - i) a file identifier, and
    - ii) other data relevant to the complete music file;
  - b) file audio-visual material related to the complete music file;
  - c) at least two track folders, with each track folder containing
    - i) a single track of music data encrypted using a second encryption key,
    - ii) a track header containing data relevant to the track of music data, and
    - iii) track audio-visual material related to the track.
22. The multi-track music file of claim 21, wherein the track audio-visual material and the file audio-visual material include data of at least one of the following types: textual data, audio data, graphical images, and video images.
23. The multi-track music file of claim 21, wherein the track header is encrypted using the first encryption key.
24. The multi-track music file of claim 21, wherein the file identifier is capable of uniquely identifying the multi-track music file to a licensing system.